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Center for AIDS Research (CFAR)

UAB is one of the seven inaugural NIH-designated Centers for AIDS Research established in **1988** and a world leader in HIV/AIDS research and patient care. UAB has been among the first to make the newest, most effective treatments available to patients, including the three-drug combination that today is the standard of care.

U.S. News & World Report ranks the AIDS program No. 8 among "America's Best Graduate Schools," and the journal Science recently highlighted Birmingham and UAB's 1917 Clinic among 10 cities nationally excelling in efforts to combat the disease.



MISSION

The **MISSION** of the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) is to achieve improved diagnosis, treatment and prevention of AIDS by facilitating the development of new knowledge from multidisciplinary research in service to the pillars of the CFAR scientific mission of:

- Prevention
- Drug Discovery
- Pathogenesis
- Understanding the natural history of HIV in the treatment era

CONNECT WITH CFAR



The Behavioral and Community Science Core

The Center for AIDS Research Behavioral and Community Sciences Core (BCSC) supports research on behavioral, environmental, economic, and social HIV/AIDS risk and protective factors in the Deep South.

The BCSC has 3 specific aims:

- **Bring methodological advances** in behavioral and community science to bear on HIV/AIDS research and interventions in Deep South communities disproportionately affected by the shifting epidemic.
- **Strengthen and sustain collaborations** with key groups to achieve Aim 1, including but not limited to: CFAR Biostatistics and Analysis Core and Clinical Core; the UAB Center for the Study of Community Health; and community partners and stakeholders.
- **Inform BCSC initiatives by assessment of needs** of UAB HIV/AIDS researchers working on behavioral and community science projects



BCSC seeks to support investigators in developing ideas, grant applications, and building resources and collaborations in behavioral and community sciences.

Consultations can be set up through an online "request for services" system CFAR created.

HIGHLIGHTS

Behavioral and Community Sciences Core Seminars:

- "Two Sides of the Same Coin: HIV Research and Public Health Practice in Jamaica"
- "A Panel: What it Means to be Part of a Community Advisory Board"
- "Sampling Hard-to-Reach and Hidden Populations Using Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS): An Introduction"
- "Impacting the HIV Continuum of Care for Domestic Youth through Community Coalition Driven Structural Change Objectives"

Along with the UAB Research and Informatics Service Center (RISC), sponsored a 3-day professional development training on qualitative research methodology and NVivo

Obtained new grants, including "An mHealth Education Intervention for Encouraging STI Testing Uptake" and "Investigating Immunologic Pathways for the Effects of Social and Structural Factors on HIV-Related Health"

Created a Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research Network

Expanded the Faith and Spirituality Network

•Mission: The UAB Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Behavioral and Community Sciences Core Faith and Spirituality Network aims to support and extend faith based efforts to address HIV and health disparity needs of the community such as cancer, heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, and stress, expand upon resources within the community, and utilize research to improve the health and well-being of the community members from a community faith based perspective.

•Coordinated and supported numerous research and community based meetings, seminars, and collaborations on HIV and faith and spirituality

•Developed a network of undergraduate and graduate students interested in conducting research in HIV and faith and spirituality

•Sponsored The Social Justice Imperative Birmingham Faith Leader Town Hall: "Moving Faith from Awareness to Engagement to Ending HIV" with The Black and HIV, an NAACP Clinton Global Health Initiative

•Conducted a Community Forum on Faith and Spirituality: "Ideas, Opportunities, and New Directions for Faith-Based Community HIV Initiatives: Bringing Together Researchers and the Community"

•Coordinated with the Inter-CFAR Faith and Spirituality Network Research and Planning Workgroups